

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A system for controlling access to services available from a communications
5 unit, the system comprising:
a memory arranged to store a plurality of identification numbers; and
a processor coupled to the memory and responsive to a request for access to
services,
wherein the processor denies the request for access to the services until a
10 security screen is satisfied, unless access to the services corresponds to one of the
plurality of identification numbers that has recently been used in accessing services.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the memory comprises one of an internal
memory and an external memory.
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3. The system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of identification numbers
comprises one of telephone numbers, unit identification numbers, and user
identification numbers.
- 20 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor further denies the request for
access to the services until the security screen is satisfied, unless access to the
services corresponds to any one of the plurality of identification numbers.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor denies a request to modify the plurality of identification numbers, unless the security screen is satisfied.

5 6. The system of claim 5, further comprising a user interface for conveying the request for access to the services to the processor and for entering a personal identification number (PIN) to satisfy the security screen.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the request for access to the services include a
10 request for access to one of calling services and services provided by an application accessed through the communications unit.

8. A communications unit having controlled access to services, the communications unit comprising:

a memory arranged to store a plurality of identification numbers;

an interface for providing a request for access to services; and

5 a processor coupled to the memory and responsive to the request for access to services,

wherein the processor denies the request for access to services until a security screen is satisfied, unless access to the services corresponds to one of the plurality of identification numbers that has recently been used in accessing services.

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9. The communications unit of claim 8, wherein the memory comprises one of internal memory and a subscriber identity module (SIM).

10. The communications unit of claim 8, wherein the plurality of identification
15 numbers comprises one of telephone numbers, unit identification numbers and user identification numbers.

11. The communications unit of claim 8, wherein the processor further denies the
request for access to the services until the security screen is satisfied, unless access to
20 the services corresponds to any one of the plurality of identification numbers.

12. The communications unit of claim 8, wherein the processor disallows an attempt to modify the plurality of identification numbers, until the security screen is satisfied by entering a correct personal identification number (PIN).

5 13. The communications unit of claim 8, wherein the interface provides the request for access to one of calling services and services provided by an application accessed through the communications unit.

14. The communications unit of claim 13,
10 wherein the memory is arranged to store a first plurality of identification numbers in a recent calls memory and a second plurality of identification numbers in a phone book memory;

 wherein the interface generates the request for calling services comprising one of receiving a call and originating a call to one of the first and the second plurality of
15 identification numbers;

 wherein the processor grants the request for calling services to one of the first plurality of identification numbers and denies the request for calling services to any one of the second plurality of identification numbers unless a valid personal identification number (PIN) is entered thus satisfying the security screen; and
20 wherein the communications unit further comprises a transceiver for supporting the calling services when granted.

15. A method for controlling access to services available from a communications unit, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of identification numbers;

receiving a request for access to services; and

5 processing the request for access to services, wherein the processing further comprises,

determining whether a security screen has been satisfied,

granting the request for access to the services when the security screen

has been satisfied, and

10 denying the request for access to the services when the security screen has not been satisfied, unless access to the services corresponds to one of the plurality of identification numbers that has recently been used in accessing services.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the providing the plurality of identification
15 numbers further comprises providing one of telephone numbers, unit identification numbers and user identification numbers.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the denying the request for access to the
services further includes denying the request for access to the services until the
20 security screen is satisfied, unless access to the services corresponds to any one of the plurality of identification numbers.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

storing the plurality of identification numbers into a memory; and

forbearing an attempt to modify the plurality of identification numbers, until

5 the security screen is satisfied by entry of a valid personal identification number
(PIN).

19. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

comparing the request for access to the services with previous requests for

10 access to the services; and

allowing the access to services if the comparing is favorable.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein processing further comprises allowing a
request for access to a predetermined service.

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21. The method of claim 15, wherein the receiving the request for access to the
services further comprises receiving a request for access to one of calling services and
services provided by an application accessed through the communications unit.

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22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

providing a first plurality of identification numbers corresponding to recent calls and a second plurality of identification numbers corresponding to a phone book,

5 wherein the request for calling services comprises one of receiving a call and originating a call to one of the first and the second plurality of identification numbers; and

 wherein the processing comprises granting the request for calling services to one of the first plurality of identification numbers and denying the request for calling
10 services to any one of the second plurality of identification numbers unless a valid personal identification number (PIN) is entered.